AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-19, 31-33 and 41-101 CANCELLED

20. (ORIGINAL) A method of forming a unitary fastener comprising the steps of extruding a thermoplastic resin in a machine direction through a die plate having a continuous base portion cavity and one or more ridge cavities extending from the base portion cavity, the extrusion being sufficient to induce melt flow molecular orientation in the polymer flowing through at least the ridge cavities forming a base portion with ridges, forming projections from the thermoplastic resin extruded through the ridge cavities, and subsequently heat treating at least a portion of the solidified projections at a temperature and time sufficient to reduce the thickness of the projections.

21. (ORIGINAL) The method of forming unitary fasteners of claim 20 wherein the projections are hook form projections having a stem portion and a head portion.

22. (ORIGINAL) A method for forming unitary hook fastener according to claim 20 wherein the formed hooks are heated at a temperature and time sufficient to shrink at least a portion of the hook head portions of the hook portions by from 5 to 90 percent.

23. (ORIGINAL) A method for forming unitary hook fastener according to claim 20 wherein the hook portions are formed by extruding continuous ridges having a profile of the hook element, on a base portion comprising a film cutting the ridges and subsequently stretching the base layer to separate the individual cut ridges into discrete hook portions.

24. (ORIGINAL) A method for forming unitary hook fastener according to claim 22 wherein at least a portion of the hook head portions are shrunk by at least 30 percent.

25. (ORIGINAL) A method for forming unitary hook fastener according to claim 23 wherein the continuous ridges are stretched in the direction of the ridges prior to cutting of the ridges.

26. (ORIGINAL) The method for forming a unitary hook fastener according to claim 20 wherein the thermoplastic resin is a phase distinct blend of a first continuous phase of thermoplastic resin and a second distinct phase.

27. (ORIGINAL) The method for forming a unitary hook fastener according to claim 20 wherein said second distinct phase is a nonparticulate filler.

28. (ORIGINAL) The method for forming a unitary hook fastener according to claim 27 wherein said filler is a nonparticulate filler comprising from 20 to 50 percent by volume of the polymeric resin.

29. (ORIGINAL) The method for forming a unitary hook fastener according to claim 20 wherein said second phase is a gas.

30. (ORIGINAL) The method for forming a unitary hook fastener according to claim 20 wherein said second phase is a distinct incompatible polymer phase.

34. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The fastener of claim 24 wherein the projections comprise hook members having a stem portion and a hook head portion where the hook members having a height from said upper surface of less than 5000 μm and each comprising a stem portion attached at one end to said base, and a head portion at the end of said stem portion opposite said base, at least the head portions having a thickness from 50 to 1500 μm, a first direction generally parallel to the surfaces of said ~~backing~~ base.

35. (ORIGINAL) A fastener according to claim 34 wherein said stem portion has a width in the range of 50 to 500 μm in a second direction generally at a right angle to said first

direction and parallel to the surfaces of said backing; said head portion having a width greater than said stem portion and a total width of from 100 to 5000 μm in said second direction.

36. (ORIGINAL) The fastener according to claim 35 wherein the hook members are provided at a density of at least 10 per square centimeter.

37. (ORIGINAL) A fastener according to claim 34 having in the range of 20 to 300 spaced hook members per square centimeter.

38. (ORIGINAL) A fastener according to claim 34 wherein said polymeric material is a thermoplastic resin.

39. (ORIGINAL) A fastener according to claim 38 wherein said base has a generally uniform thickness between said upper and lower surfaces of between 30 to 200 μm.

40. (ORIGINAL) A fastener according to claim 39 wherein said polymeric material comprises polyethylene, polypropylene, polypropylene-polyethylene copolymers or blends thereof.